

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05
HA-05 ACDA-12 DLOS-09 /147 W
-----002856 240326Z /75

R 231740Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6359
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 02892

FOR SCHWEBEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, PFOR, PINS
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES

1. AT WEOG MEETING A.M. FEBRUARY 22, ONDA (JAPAN) INFORMED GROUP HIS CONVERSATION WITH KEY NON-ALIGNED DELS INCLUDING ALGERIA INDICATED COMPROMISE POSSIBLE ALONG LINES SIMILAR THOSE CONTAINED DEPT'S 46260. HE URGED THAT SUCH A COMPROMISE BE ACCEPTED.

2. MOST DELS INDICATED WILLINGNESS ACCEPT SUCH A SOLUTION IN CONTEXT GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE DRAFT. CHAMBERLAIN (UK) AND DICKSON (CANADA) STATED THEY HAD NO FINAL INSTRUCTIONS THAT SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSAL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE IF OTHERS IN GROUP COULD ACCEPT BUT THAT LONDON AND OTTAWA VERY RELUCTANT AGREE TO REPETITION LIBERATION STRUGGLE LANGUAGE FROM ART. 1 (4) ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL 1. THEY ARGUED THAT SAID LANGUAGE DIFFICULT ENOUGH IN PROTOCOL 1 CONTEXT BUT THAT TO ALLOW IT TO ESCAPE INTO GENERAL USAGE IN TREATY DRAFTS UNWISE, FUNDAMENTALLY DESTABILIZING AND WOULD COME
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BACK TO HAUNT US IN THE LONG RUN.

3. DEGOUTTES (FRANCE) SAID HE NOT ABLE ACCEPT SUCH A COMPROMISE AND THAT HE INSTRUCTED TO INSIST THAT HOSTAGES CONVENTION COVER ALL ASPECTS OF HOSTAGE TAKING AND THAT CONVENTION BE EXPRESSLY STATED TO BE TEXT WHICH "COMPLETE" (FRENCH WORD FOR WHICH "SUPPLEMENT" IS PROBABLY NEAREST

ENGLISH EQUIVALENT) GENEVA CONVENTION.

4. DELOFF SUGGESTED FRENCH DEL CONSIDER RESERVING THEIR POSITION ON COMPROMISE ALONG THESE LINES RATHER THAN OBJECTION TO IT. DELOFF FURTHER ASKED WHETHER UK AND CANADIAN PROBLEMS MIGHT BE EASED IF WE EXPLORED PACKAGE DEAL WITH OTHERS WHICH COULD GIVE US SOME INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER ENTIRE CONVENTION WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH AND TROUBLE FREE ENOUGH TO MAKE OVERALL PACKAGE TOLERABLE IN SPITE OF TROUBLESOME LANGUAGE. CHAMBERLAIN AND DICKSON AGREED TO SUCH AN APPROACH AND DEGOUTTES (FRANCE) SAID HE NOT OPTIMISTIC QUAI WOULD SETTLE FOR MERE RESERVATION BUT THAT HE WOULD EXPLORE MATTER.

5. BRACKLO (FRG) SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO ARRANGE NEGOTIATING MEETING AT WHICH PACKAGE DEAL COULD BE EXPLORED.

6. ALGERIAN, IRANIAN, MEXICAN, POLISH AND US DELS ATTENDED NEGOTIATING MEETING FRG ARRANGED. BRACKLO OPENED MEETING BY SUGGESTING GROUP LOOK AT OTHER OPEN ISSUES. EFFORT WAS COMPLETE FAILURE DUE INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS ALGERIAN AND IRANIAN DEL TO TALK SENSIBLY ABOUT OTHER ISSUES.

7. WHEN DELOFF PRESSED FOR DISCUSSION OF PACKAGE AND DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS PACKAGE WE COULD LIVE WITH MEXICAN AND POLISH DELS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PICTURE
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DELOFF HAD GIVEN. ALGERIAN DEL SAID OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS INCLUDED DEFINITION, NEED TO EXCLUDE POLITICAL CRIMES, NEED TO ENSURE FREEING OF HOSTAGES COULD NOT JUSTIFY USE OF FORCE, COVERAGE OF STATES TAKING PEOPLES HOSTAGE. HE CONCLUDED THAT IN ANY EVENT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS ANYTHING UNTIL SCOPE ISSUE SETTLED SATISFACTORILY FROM ALGERIAN POINT OF VIEW. HE ADAMENTLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS OTHER ISSUES ON BASIS OF ASSUMING SCOPE ISSUE SOLVED. REPEATED EFFORTS BY FRG AND US DELOFFS TO DRAW HIM INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER POINTS RAN INTO COMPLETE STONE WALL. MEXICAN, IRANIAN AND POLISH DELS INDICATED AFTER SESSION THEY APPRECIATED WHAT DELOFF TRYING DO TO MOVE MATTER FORWARD BUT THEY WERE ND HELP DURING MEETING.

8. COMMENT: REASON FOR FAILURE OF SESSION MAY BE SAME AS REASON FOR APPARENT PROGRESS EARLIER IN SESSION - NAMELY NON-ALIGNED DELS LACK OF AUTHORITY OR CAPACITY TO BLOCK PROGRESS ON SMALL STUFF INCLUDED INABILITY TO MAKE THE EFFORT REQUIRED TO CLOSE A COMPLEX DEAL. DISINCLINATION OF VERY ABLE MEXICAN DEL TO ASSIT IN BRIDGING THE GAPS, REFUSAL OF YUGOSLAVS TO GO BEYOND CORRIDOR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE NON-ALIGNED TO BE FLEXIBLE, AND EXTREME PERSONAL

WEAKNESS OF MACAULEY (NIGERIA) AND SIMANI (KENYA) LEFT
FIELD TO LIBYA AND ALGERIA AND IN FINAL ANALYSIS THESE
DELS ABLE BLOCK AGREEMENT. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, HOSTAGES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA02892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-0420
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatnd.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ff669ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3509370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ff669ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014